

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18, 19, 21-30, and 32-36 are currently pending. Claims 35 and 36 have been added by the present amendment. The newly added claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 18, 19, 21-30, and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,740,800 to Hendrickson et al. (hereinafter “the ‘800 patent”).

Previously presented Claim 18 is directed to a system connected to at least one of a plurality of medical equipments and configured to manage various works each of which is performed by using the at least one of the plurality of medical equipments and relates to at least one patient or at least one medical examination, the system comprising:

a generate unit configured to generate a stream list which includes a plurality of stream information, the stream information being a flow of work processes performed in one work;

a select unit configured to select a displayed work process;

an update unit configured to update the stream list on the basis of a progress situation of works selected by the select unit and performed in the at least one of the plurality of medical equipments; and

a display unit which displays the updated stream list so as to share information of the medical examination and execute a centralized progress management of the work processes.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the ‘800 patent is directed to a method and apparatus for clinical pathway order selection in a medical information system. The ‘800 clinical pathways are associated with a patient condition and

¹ See, e.g., page 14, line 10 to page 15, line 24 of Applicants’ specification.

include sequence time intervals and order sets showing medical treatment, examination, care, instructions, and so forth to be performed for each patient.²

The Office Action cites column 3, lines 8-38 for teaching the update unit defined in Claim 18. However, it is respectfully submitted that the '800 patent fails to disclose an update unit configured to update the stream list on the basis of a progress situation of works selected by the select unit and performed in the at least one of the plurality of medical equipments. Rather, as cited in the Office Action, the '800 patent simply discusses a medical information system that is designed to provide patient information at the patient's bedside and elsewhere in a hospital. The '800 system uses a client-server architecture wherein a central server **supplies data and controls the flow of information to workstations** (clients) located at each patient bedside. Further, the '800 patent discusses that the system may be connected through a hub 14 to patient monitors at selected patient bedsides.³ The '800 patent does not disclose that the patient information provided by the system is updated on the basis of a progress situation of *works selected by a select unit and performed in at least one of a plurality of medical equipments* (e.g., the workstations or patient monitors). Thus, the '800 patent does not disclose the update unit defined in Claim 18.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the '800 patents fails to disclose a display unit which displays the updated stream list so as to share information of the medical examination and execute a centralized progress management of the work processes. Rather, as noted in the Office Action, the '800 patent simply discusses a system designed to provide patient information at the patient's bedside and elsewhere in a hospital, such as physician orders.⁴ The '800 patent does not disclose that the patient information or the physician orders are ***an updated stream list***, that is updated on the basis a progress situation of works selected by a

² See '800 patent, Fig 2 and the discussion related thereto.

³ Id. at column 3, lines 8-38.

⁴ See Office Action dated June 17, 2008, pages 6 and 7.

select unit and performed in at least one of a plurality of medical equipments. Thus, the '800 patent does not disclose the display unit defined in Claim 18.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over the '800 patent.

Amended Claim 24 recites, in part,

an update unit configured to update the stream list on the basis of a progress situation of works selected by the select unit and performed in the at least one of the plurality of medical equipments; and

a display unit which displays the updated stream list so as to share information of the medical examination and execute a centralized progress management of the work processes.

Amended Claim 29 recites, in part,

updating the stream list on the basis of a progress situation of works selected by a select unit and performed in at least one of the plurality of medical equipments; and

displaying the updated stream list so as to share information of the medical examination and execute a centralized progress management of the work processes.

As noted above, the '800 patent fails to disclose the update unit and the display unit recited in Claim 18. Thus, the '800 patent fails to disclose the system and the method of Claims 24 and 29, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 24 and 29 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '800 patent.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claims 35 and 36 for examination on the merits. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the more detailed features of Claims 35 and 36 are not disclosed or suggested by the '800 patent.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 24, and 29 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '800 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as

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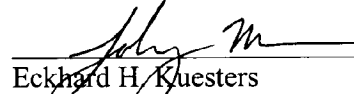
amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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